The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news coverage and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE—
2 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1658 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1943 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 33, NO. 3

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

We've just been watching soldiers marching down the street. They were a healthy, husky-looking lot. We couldn't help feeling proud that Uncle Sam is taking such good care of the nation's manpower.

The sight of these tanned, stalwart boys swinging with vigorous step along the avenue reminded us forcibly—by contrast—of a scene at the gates of a war production factory a few days before. It was the end of the day shift. The men—many of them middle aged—came straggling out in better-cheer groups. They were no uniform save overalls and work shirts. Their faces were pale and weary-looking. Although they were from the job, their steps lagged as they climbed aboard buses and street-cars.

These men were soldiers of production. They were performing a service to their country just as vital as anything on the battlefronts. And we couldn't help feeling just from the look of them that they are being neglected by Uncle Sam.

But there is an excuse for Uncle Sam. He's got a lot on his mind these days and perhaps he feels that his soldiers of production can look out for themselves, through their unions. But there is no excuse for his nephews and nieces—the citizens of the United States—and they certainly do not prize the men and women of labor the recognition and the grateful appreciation their service merits.

Labor's Service Taken For Granted

We fear that the American people are too much inclined to take this service rendered by war workers as a matter of course. They seldom stop to realize that without the hard work of the men and women who run the machines of industry our soldiers and sailors would never be able to engage the enemy in battle. They rarely consider the fact that these soldiers of production are working their heads off at the job and are breaking production records every day. Why are they doing this? For wages? Money couldn't buy the kind of drive these workers are putting into their jobs. It's a lot more than that. It's a new spirit, a voluntary speed-up, a feeling akin to the sublimation that impels a soldier to advance in the face of deadly machine gun fire. This feeling has a definite purpose behind it. Workers today realize that every plane, ship, gun and tank they help to produce, helps to win the war. They know that the faster they turn out the materials of war, the sooner the war is likely to end. They are hungry for victory and they know their own efforts can serve to hasten the day.

Now it would encourage these men and women to feel that the American people as a whole recognized their achievements and appreciated the part that made these results possible. But the tragic fact is that labor is being rewarded only with kicks and insults and recurring threats.

When Labor Gets Headlines

The daily newspapers and most radio commentators are largely responsible for this sorry state of affairs. It is most unusual for them ever to bestow a word of praise for the loyal workers in our war plants. They ignore labor except in the rare and exceptional cases when a strike occurs that delays the war effort. Then labor gets headlines. Then the smears are heaped upon its shoulders. Then editorials are written demanding action punishing all workers, even those with the best records of service. Then the predatory interests who are always glad to take advantage of every opportunity to destroy labor's rights and hamper its freedoms jump on the bandwagon and begin organizing another anti-labor crusade.

Of course, it is unfortunate that any particular group of workers should ever feel sorry or comfort to the enemy. But we can't provide them with ammunition to snipe at the standards won after long years of struggle. Any worker who goes on strike for any cause during this war is a traitor to his own interests and those of all other workers. We unhesitatingly condemn strikes just as vigorously as anyone else. But we insist that the ninety-nine and nine-tenths percent of self-disciplined and devoted soldiers of production should not be blamed or penalized for the sins of the one-tenth of one per cent, any more than we would condemn our entire army and navy just because a few misguided men might desert.

If any writer would dare to smear our armed forces because a single soldier went A.W.O.L. he would be denounced. Yet all writers feel free to smear labor as a whole when a small group of workers are so carried away by a sense of injustice as to walk off the job. That isn't fair, it isn't American, it just isn't good sense.

THE KNEES WON'T WORK

By JACOB A. GOLDBERG, Ph.D.

Secretary of the Social Hygiene Committee
New York Tuberculosis and Health Association;
Public Health Consultant, American Social Hygiene Association

ARTICLE IV

It was a very busy day in the factory, and Sam was at his task, setting the pace. He was one of those little, lithe, nervous fellows who worked very fast at his trade and seemed to get a lot done. His output was the envy of particular day, for some reason, Sam slowed down. He had pains in his back, he had pains in his hands, he had pains in his fingers, he found he could not bend his knees without suffering severe pain, and the work required bending. When he did bend he could not hit the raw material he used at his work bench, because his fingers apparently seemed to suffer a "rheumatic" attack. What was the matter with Sam? He had to go home; he went to bed; his wife called the family doctor. His first question was: "Tell me, Sam, 'did you ever have gonorrhea?' Sam's face turned ashen. 'Gonorrhea,' he said, "you know I am a respectable married man." "Yes, Sam, I know that's you were married, but you've been married only a few years, when did you last have gonorrhea?" Shaken, Sam finally said: "A year before I was married." "Well," said the doctor, "your present condition results from that infection."

Do you know of any men who have suffered similar attacks of gonorrheal arthritis? The condition is a painful one; it takes a long time to improve and causes much disability. With the newer drugs for treating gonorrhea we are able to prevent many of these cases, but those who do suffer such attacks will long remember. The science of medicine in all its branches has made remarkable progress in the last few years. But scientific achievements alone cannot prevent or cure disease, unless we cooperate fully with physicians and their assistants. If we foolishly expose ourselves to altogether preventable disease, the science of medicine can only help, not prevent infection as a rule. Gonorrhea is a widespread cause of illness and disability. Bladder, kidney, heart, eyes, joints and nervous system may be affected in both men and women, can become involved. Do not lose time or neglect to get proper treatment if you become infected after exposure. Better still, why become infected?

Tolan Group Hits Forced-Work Plan; Demands Civilian Production Board

Washington, D. C.—Sharply critical of the way the armed services are handling armament procurement and setting "general concern" over the manner in which Paul V. McNutt is going about his job as manpower director is shaping up, the Tolan committee, in its final report, renewed its demand that a single civilian board to manage both war production and the civilian economy.

Declaring that the war could not be won merely with "our surplus overpower," the Board recommended by Representative John H. Tolan of California, which has spent two and a half years investigating defense migration and, more recently, manpower mobilization, declared that it was essential for an over-all civilian war mobilization agency to be established.

Opposition to national service legislation, which would put war work handling armament procurement and the part "larger corporations" are playing in the handling of military contracts, and general dissatisfaction with past "muddling" in Washington of war matters in the open.

The report also declared that "one of the practices which this committee particularly deplores is the widespread bureaucrats or substituting the word for the deed."

"There has been a widespread attempt," it added, "to persuade the American people that the solution of the steps previously urged by this and other Congressional committees have been carried out by the executive branch of the government. If we foolishly expose ourselves to altogether preventable disease, the science of medicine can only help, not prevent infection as a rule. Gonorrhea is a widespread cause of illness and disability. Bladder, kidneys, heart, eyes, joints and nervous system may be affected in both men and women, can become involved. Do not lose time or neglect to get proper treatment if you become infected after exposure. Better still, why become infected?

BOOKBINDERS OFFICIAL APPOINTED TO WPB POST

Washington, D. C.—Thomas P. Lyach, Boston, for the past ten years international representative in the New York office of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, has been named assistant to W. L. Gandfield, Director of WPB Division of Printing and Publishing, to advise him on labor matters within the jurisdiction of the division. The appointment of Mr. Lynch was recommended by the Labor Production Division Director Wandell Lard after consultation with President William Green of the American Federation of Labor and other labor officials.

Commenting on the appointment, Director Chandler said: "We look forward with great interest to Mr. Lynch's help in dealing with labor matters within the scope of the division assigned to him. He will handle such matters but will be responsible for working out any problems arising in this field in close accord with the consultant from the Labor Production Division assigned to our division and with the Labor Advisory Committee and other union officials concerned with our operations."

AFL President Praises Workers For Tremendous War Goods Output

Atlanta, Ga. — President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, addressing the delegates to the Southern War Labor Conference here, paid a high tribute to the millions of workers who have turned out record-breaking totals of war production.

"Every one of our soldiers of production who is on the job and producing the goods can feel that he is helping his country win a glorious victory," he said.

"It seems to me that the American people owe a debt of gratitude to these loyal workers almost equal to that we all acknowledge to the men in uniform who are risking their lives against the enemy on the battlefronts. Let no one imagine that those serving on the production front are likewise not safe and easy. Figures compiled by the National Safety Council show that more Americans were killed by industrial accidents last year in mills and factories than on the battlefronts facing the enemy. Let us not forget that labor has its war heroes, too."

Turning to the question of strikes hampering the war effort, Mr. Green cited government reports to show that work stoppages have been reduced to an infinitesimal quantity.

"When the Japanese made their dastardly attack upon Pearl Harbor, labor pledged to the President that there would be no interruption to war production during the war," he said. "Has that pledge been fulfilled? Let us look at the record. The National War Labor Board reports that on any day losses from strikes in war production during last November fell to the lowest point in history. The losses amounted to only three one-hundredths of one per cent of man days worked in the month. In other words, the board said officially that labor's score was 99 and 97-100ths per cent perfect.

"But these over-all figures for the entire nation still do not give us a complete picture of the record. We can give you a better idea of it by citing the record made in the great shipbuilding area on the Pacific coast in November. In that entire month there were only four new strikes involving only 96 workers in the entire State, where some *seven million* workers are employed in war work. That is something else we can all be proud of.

"Now, the War Production Board has asked for the rights for 1942. In order to speed the day of victory, in order to make possible further substantial advances along the roads that lead to Berlin and Rome and Tokio, the Government has doubled war production quotas for this year. Magnificent as was our production record in 1942, we've got to do twice as well in 1943.

"I have no hesitation in pledging that the workers of America will hold up their end and fulfill their part in this gigantic undertaking. Their faith in this nation and in its democracy is indeed eternal and their spirit grows stronger day by day. They have tested victory and they will not be satisfied until it is complete. They have just read from their labors until the dictators of Europe and Asia are crushed for all time. Willingly and eagerly they will pitch in and do every job set for them. So long as their strength is not impaired by the destruction of labor standards, so long as their democratic rights are not encroached upon by compulsory legislation, so long as their faith in America is kept intact by giving them a square deal, they will produce the goods."

In conclusion, Mr. Green referred to our post-war objectives. "First and foremost is the attainment of a peace that will be fair and just to all and that will be lasting," he said. "We can attain such a peace—and we must be with any difficulties—and encourage us—we will be well on the road toward the realization of a peal the human race has been striving for since the beginning of time—freedom from fear. I assure you that labor will make its voice heard at the conference tables after this war in a clarion call for enduring peace.

"The second essential post-war objective is freedom from want, without which human beings can have no real security in the short span of life allotted to us. Toward this end, the President proposed a sweeping social security program which will protect every American from the cradle to the grave against the haunting fear of poverty and destitution. Let me state here and now that the American Federation of Labor will support this social security program to the limit of its power, and will throw into the fight until it becomes the law of the land."

Gov. Dewey Backs Labor's Rights In Message To N. Y. Legislature

Albany, N. Y.—The importance of guaranteeing the rights of labor was emphasized by Governor Thomas E. Dewey in a message to the New York State Legislature. Stressing the curtailment of some of these rights in the interest of the war effort, they must be entirely restored when the war emergency has passed. Governor Dewey said:

"In planning for the future we must make sure that we are not weakening the rights of labor in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the State of New York.

"Organized labor faces a difficult crisis in our country today. In large measure it has contributed to the stupendous war effort we have made. The true basis for collective bargaining is a right of free labor and there can be no free labor without free bargaining. It will take vigilance and understanding to make certain that the wartime changes in the relations of government to organized labor is not carried over into peace.

"The hard-won rights of labor which have been jealously guarded as the cornerstone of our liberties as fundamental as the freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Like these other rights, they must be restored intact to a people who have temporarily sacrificed them in the cause of freedom.

"We can only be assured of this if we make certain that the fundamented economy of war is succeeded by a peacetime economy of freedom under law. Our State has a great responsibility and a great opportunity to contribute toward the attainment of this goal. The State must take affirmative measures to promote the industry, its workers and its powers, the conditions which encourage productive enterprises and multiply employment.

"Valuable work in this direction has already been done by the Joint Legislative Committee on Industrial and Labor Conditions, established by your honorable bodies, and by the War Public Works Planning Commission and by the Division of Commerce.

"At a later time I will recommend to your honorable bodies a further broadening of the work of the Division of Commerce, together with suggestions for strengthening and integrating the various programs of the State, looking toward the development of economic opportunity in the post-war years."

Supreme Court Upholds Government In Wage and Hour Standards Case

Washington, D. C.—The Supreme Court held that the task of determining whether a factory is subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act is an administrative function for the Labor Department and not a judicial function for the courts.

Accordingly, it reversed a Federal District Court's refusal to grant a temporary injunction sought by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins requiring the Endicott-Johnson Corporation of Binghamton and Johnson City, N. Y., to produce pay-roll records for examination.

The Court required that an government contractor of more than $10,000, the manufacturers shall pay minimum wages fixed by the Secretary of Labor. Its purpose, as described in the courts opinion, "is to prevent the use of government's immense purchasing power to raise the labor standards."

The Endicott-Johnson Corp. was charged with failing in certain cases to pay the minimum wages and overtime for work on government shoe contracts between 1936 and 1938. In addition, the company refused to furnished records for factories making the finished shoes, but refused data on other plants where parts of the shoes were made, contending that these were not covered by the act.

The Supreme Court's opinion, written by Justice Robert H. Jackson, said that "Congress submitted the administration of the act to the judgment of the Secretary of Labor, not to the judgment of the courts," and that "the District Court had no authority to control her procedure" nor "to decide the question of coverage itself."

FIGHT AGAINST PARALYSIS GETS $45,902 FROM UNION

New York, N. Y.—Emil Rosenberg, executive director of the Labor Division of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, announced that a $200 defense war bond, purchased by the International Association of Machinists, employed by Jack & Heintz, Cleveland, Ohio, were presenting a check for $45,902.02 to President Roosevelt as their contribution to the current campaign in the fight against infantile paralysis through the Celebration of the President's Birthday.

AFL Unions Will Double Production In 1943, Executive Council Pledges

The Executive Council's Statement

Miami, Fla.—Following is text of the declaration by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor on the 1943 war production program:

War production must be vastly increased in 1943. WPB Chairman Donald Nelson has announced that it will be necessary to double the 1942 quotas of war materials this year so that the new military plans of the United Nations can be carried successfully to victory.

Labor accepts its part of the responsibility for making good on this tremendous program willingly. We know it will be no easy task. But we believe it is the grave mistake for government officials or anyone else to magnify the difficulties unnecessarily.

We must remember that many important factors are in our favor and assure success for the future months. In the first place, some of our largest industries did not get into full swing on war production until last spring or summer because of delays in converting their plants and machinery from a part-time basis to a full-time basis in war work.

Further delays were encountered because of shortages of materials. Partly because these materials were not on hand in the right place at the right time. This serious obstacle to efficient production has now been largely removed through a new system of allocation of materials introduced by the War Production Board.

New processes have been developed to speed up production. This is especially true of planes and shipbuilding. These new methods are rapidly being extended through war industry and will help to step up the total output. Also, many new plants and factories have been completed during the past few months and will serve to expand production of vital materials.

All of these factors must be considered in the light of these facts. But even more important is the fact that the men and women whose hands operate and guide our industrial machinery are better organized today to do the job than they were a year ago.

No general would think of sending an untrained and unorganized army into battle against the enemy. Our workers have been drafted—our boys in uniform many months of drill and special training before they consider them ready for active duty on the battle fronts.

In the same way, though to a lesser degree, the experience gained during the past year will be of great benefit to the nation's army of production soldiers and will help them perform their tasks more efficiently.

Labor has made a splendid record in the war effort, particularly since Pearl Harbor. Workers and management are cooperating for maximum production to a wider extent than ever before in the nation's history. Progress has been achieved between both sides has been more willing to put aside their own selfish interests and to unite on a single objective of turning out more and more guns. Labor-management committees have assisted in bringing together the viewpoints of workers and employers and solving many personnel and operational problems. Some of the nation's outstanding industrial accomplishments—only a few of which are listed here—are truly amazing production gains could not have been achieved without the valuable suggestions and eager cooperation of their workers and the union that represents them.

Furthermore, in several important industries, wages and working conditions have been stabilized on a fair basis, thereby removing many past causes of disputes.

During 1942 American workers for the most part lived up to labor's pledge to the President that there would be no interruption to war production. Strikes due to strikes and lockouts was reduced to a tiny fraction of time worked. Considering how upset industrial conditions were and the vast changes that took place in the nation's labor relations as a whole have been remarkable. And we are determined as part of our duty to the nation and to the workers we represent, to see to it that such improvement comes to pass in the months ahead.

Of course, there are pessimists who become quickly discouraged by the magnitude of the tasks before us. And there are those who have no real faith in the processes of democracy. These are the first to demand that we discard the voluntary methods which bring results in a democracy and to favor the substitution of force and compulsion in their place. Such are the voices that call loudest for drafting labor and freezing all labor conditions and other dangerous experiments—dangerous to war effort and dangerous to the American form of government.

Labor sees no justification for such misadventure into the unexplored fields of compulsion. After all, it is the men and women of labor who will be called on to do the work. They are not frightened or intimidated by the bigness of the job that has to be done. They say: "Give us the tools, give us the materials and we will perform the task."

Our army of production soldiers made good last year. They will do even better this year if they are just given a fair chance.

We pledge our full cooperation with the American Federation of Labor will do everything in their power to fulfill and even exceed America's war production goals for 1943.

AFL Salutes Federal Civilian Employes For Fine War Record

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor saluted, on a nation-wide "Labor For Victory" broadcast, the loyal army of 2,200,000 civilian workers of the United States Government who don't wear uniforms but who "man the battle lines" in the navy yards, arsenals, munitions factories and government offices to keep win the war.

James B. Burns, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, emphasized the important work done by government employes. He said President Roosevelt had declared that, 60 per cent, 1,500,000, of the government's civilian workers are working in Government-owned manufacturing establishments, such as navy yards and arsenals, turning out ships, guns and ammunition vitally needed by our fighting forces, and manning vast offices, such as the mails.

"There are mountains of office work to administer our war production drive and the new price control, rationing, manpower, transportation, mobilization and farm production programs," Mr. Burns said.

Increase in personnel has taken place in the administrative offices of the Army and Navy—and for a very good reason. Before any new offensive can be launched, or before any additional can be shipped to the battlefronts, careful plans and preparations must be made by government employes for each of the work being done by the new army of Government office workers."

Leo George, president of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, declared on the same program that "most employes of our Government do not get enough pay to live on in accordance with their fellow citizens. In fact, many of them have to work two jobs to keep up the war. Government employes on the average were in the low-income group. Since the war they have seen the wages of workers in private employment go up on the same program Mr. Burns pointed out that the Government's civilian employes have not advanced a penny.

He said the Government through a formula reached by the National War Labor Board permits wage increases as high as 15 per cent in private industry to cover increased living costs since that date, "but at the same time the Government has done little or nothing to take care of its own employes who have not received any pay increases at all since that date. In fact, the members of the union that I represent and many other employes in the postal service have not received any pay increase in 18 years!"

Pointing out that the law recently passed by Congress giving overtime compensation to some Government employes is a bonus in addition to wages, Mr. Burns said that instead of applying "sneaky" methods to the Government, the enactment of a simple law granting Government employes a war-time pay increase of $1 a day which would comprise six months after the end of the war. This would amount to less than $6 a week for each Government worker. Surely this is not too much to ask for those who have been sent to pay to its sadly neglected civil servants."

Mr. Arthur S. Flemming, a member of the Civil Service Commission and assistant director of the War Manpower Commission, paid a tribute to the "career employes" of the Government, declaring permanent employment is protected by the Civil Service Act. Specifically referring to Government employes in navy yards and arsenals, he said the "career employes" had been offered higher pay in private industry but have remained on their Government jobs.

"It is difficult for anyone outside of the government to visualize the sacrifices of time and energy that are made every day in the year by clerical, stenographic, professional men and women, and persons in administrative positions."

Warns Against Compulsory Laws; Urges Retention Of Voluntary Methods

Miami, Fla.—The Executive Council pledged that the trade unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor "will do everything in their power to fulfill and even exceed the Nation's doubled war production goals for this year."

"Our army of production soldiers made good last year," the council declared. "They will do even better this year if they are given a fair chance."

The statement warned against "force, compulsion or regimentation" in the handling of war production problems and pointed out that voluntary methods bring the best results.

The experience and training that the Nation's labor force obtained on the job last year will stand America in good stead this year and make for increased output. Other favorable factors, processes, and the completion of many new plants for the manufacture of planes, ships, tanks and guns.

The council's declaration was made public by President William Green at a press conference following the first session of the annual mid-winter meeting.

Mr. Green disclosed that the council plans to review the entire course of the war effort to date and chart plans and policies for the future which will promote increased and more efficient production.

He also announced that the first meetings of the Anglo-American Labor Committee will be held here next week and that British delegates, headed by Sir Walter Citrine, is scheduled to arrive from overseas.

This meeting, he said, will discuss ways and means of expanding war production among the United Nations and of widening the scope of labor's participation in the war effort. The council also will make plans for labor representation at the peace conferences after victory is achieved.

Mr. Green revealed that a committee of building and metal trades union representatives appeared before the Executive Council to denounce the CIO raid against the AFL unions which have closed shop agreements with the Kaiser shipbuilding interests in the Northwest. He indicated that the council may send a telegram to the President of the United States protesting against the action of the National Labor Relations Board in giving official recognition to the CIO raid by holding hearings in the case.

"We feel that this governmental agency is making a great mistake by persisting with this Kaiser case at this time," Mr. Green said. "The AFL workers in this shipyard have established a perfect record. They have reached new heights of production. The action of the NLRB will lower efficiency, retard production and create bitter feelings."

SHIPBUILDING RECORDS BROKEN LAST YEAR

Washington, D. C. — Chairman Emory S. Land of the Maritime Commission announced that the nation's shipyards broke every world record for merchant ship construction in 1942, turning out 8,090,809 dead-weight tons, slightly in excess of the goal set by President Roosevelt last January.

Admiral Land said the Nation is building merchant ships at the rate of four a day or an annual output of 14,400,000 tons, and that peak production of five ships a day will be reached by May. He said the shipbuilding would have a capacity of 20,000,000 tons this year, though the amount produced would depend on the help and war materials given necessary materials and equipment.

The Victory Fleet of 746 vessels delivered into service in 1942 included 542 Liberty ships, 62 tankers, 62 of the speedy cargo-type Maritime Standard C-type, 55 cargo ships for the British, 5 coastal freighters, 5 ore carriers and 16 special type. Admiral Land added that the total does not include a number of vessels built for the Army and Navy or 800 small craft.

The figures submitted by Admiral Land completely refute the claims of the National Association of Manufacturers that the wage-hour law restricts working hours per week to 40 weekly and thereby restricts war production. Supplementing Admiral Land's statistics regarding the peak record in shipbuilding, the National Council of American Shipbuilders reported that the average weekly hours of work in the shipbuilding industry during the period of greatest war construction in 1942 increased 655 per cent over the preceding year.

CHICAGO TEAMSTERS DRIVE SELLS $220,000 WAR BONDS

Chicago, Ill.—Over $220,000 worth of war bonds were purchased during the first week of a two million dollar war bond drive started by Teamsters Joint Council No. 25 of Chicago on the first anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. More than $165,000 worth were purchased at the initial meeting of the campaign attended by representatives of approximately 80,000 local union members in the Chicago area.

In addition to the two million dollar campaign, the Teamsters are displaying a display, costing about $5,000, which will cover the entire west side of the City Hall.